

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1882.

The grave of Sargent S. Prentiss is in among the decaying ruins of an old family burying ground two miles east of the center of Natchez. A plain upright slab bears this simple record: "Sargent S. Prentiss. Born in Portland, Me. Died in Natchez, Miss." The propriety of erecting a more enduring and imposing memorial has been suggested by some of the countless admirers of Mr. Prentiss.

A few days ago, while a lady who resides near Chattanooga, Tenn., but across the Georgia line, was at work in her garden, she discovered something sparkling in the undergrowth, and on closer examination discovered that it was an English sovereign. She continued her investigations, and soon collected forty, which were strewn promiscuously in that locality. They are all dated between the years 1820 and 1827. Their presence there is a deep mystery.

The Spiritualists have turned their attention to the East as a likely recruiting ground, and are trying to seduce the Hindoo into their ranks. But the Hindoo, under the influence of the English, has become acute and intelligent. At a seance given at Calcutta a few weeks ago a Bengalese gentleman completely upset the Spiritualist who presided over the entertainment. In the course of the proceedings he was touched on the nose by a being said to be from the other world, and represented to be his father. "No," he replied, "that cannot be. My father never washed himself, and the spirit's hand smells of soap."

The July reports of the twenty-five savings banks of New York city show that there are on deposit in those banks the large sum of \$219,417,467.59, the total resources of the banks being \$234,578,658.66. The number of open accounts is 566,163, showing an average deposit on each account of nearly \$400. During the last six months 64,121 accounts were opened and 47,040 closed, showing a net increase in the number of accounts of 17,081. The deposits received during the six months aggregated \$36,587,840.30, and the withdrawals \$32,147,281.27, showing a net increase in deposits of \$4,440,559.03.

Quebec society is "up in arms" because a lady dentist has opened rooms in that city for the practice of her profession. The press denounces her as pursuing an unwomanly vocation, and the clergy of certain of the churches have warned their parishioners against patronizing her. If she ministered to the fashionable follies of the Quebec ladies she would undoubtedly be welcome. So she would, probably, if she consented to be a burden on somebody. But because she proposed to earn an honest livelihood in a thoroughly honorable way she is not to be tolerated. Quebec is too far behind the age for any talk about annexation. She should be civilized first.

An important journey was recently made by Dr. Regel, a German traveler, in Darwaz. All students of Central Asian geography know of the interest which centers in this most inaccessible cradle of the Aryan race. Dr. Regel testifies to the fact that the Tajiks of Darwaz are of pure Aryan type; their hair, sometimes dark, sometimes fair, is rarely shorn, and they wear a short dress. The women go about unveiled, and marry by consent, and their cast of features is, curiously enough, both European and gypsy-like. Their dwellings are built with stone and mortar, and their national melodies are like those of Europe. These are curious evidences of the Aryan nationality which still lingers in this secluded tract.

The recent death of Richard Baxter Bridgman, at South Amherst, Mass., says the Springfield Republican, caused the first break in a remarkable family. His wife was one of a family of seven daughters and two sons, all of whom were born in the same room, all the daughters also being married in the room in which they were born. Of these nine children, with their husbands and wives, who are scattered through the country from Massachusetts to Missouri, none have died until the death of Mr. Bridgman, although the first child was married forty-six years ago. The mother of these children, Mrs. Judith Nutting, is now living in her 96th year, and has seen no death in her immediate family since that of her husband, forty-five years ago. Probably few, if any, families in the country could show such a remarkable record.

There is a noticeable disposition just now to wage war on the tobacco habit among boys. The Philadelphia Times has been crusading against the use of cigarettes, and claims to discover a diminution in the local sales of these abominations. It has printed revolting revelations of the way the paper rolls are often filled with refuse stubs which are collected in cities, and insists upon the truth of its discoveries. The use of to-

bacco has been forbidden to the students in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and the Military Academy at West Point, after careful investigation concerning the physiological effects of the habit. The best medical advice was sought, and upon it the regulations were issued. The report of the Surgeon General in 1889 strongly advised this action as "unquestionably the most important matter in the health history of the students of West Point." The principal of Phillips Academy at Exeter, N. H., has issued a circular to the parents of his students, stating that the subject had claimed much attention in England, France, Germany and America, that he found physicians unanimous in condemning the use of tobacco by boys, and asking whether they would consider the prohibition of tobacco reasonable and practicable. A majority of the parents have replied and are, as might be expected, unanimous in the desire that their sons may abstain. There certainly can be no two opinions about the wisdom of allowing growing boys to smoke.

Of the late ex-Congressman Artemas Hale, the Boston Traveller says: "He was always regular and temperate in his habits, and a total abstainer from intoxicating liquors and tobacco, and enjoyed a remarkable degree of health during his whole life. He was accustomed to drive out alone till recently, and within a few years has been seen wheeling a bag of meal from the store to his residence, disdaining the lazy ways of younger men. With the exception of his hearing, he retained full possession of his faculties, physical and mental, and his address to his lodge on his 95th birthday is spoken of as one of the finest ever delivered by a Masonic body. His only living direct descendant is a granddaughter, who lived with him. His only son was killed in his own sight, by a runaway accident, several years ago. Early in the present season he suffered from a severe attack of dysentery, the first illness of his long life, and, although recovering from the attack, never regained his former strength, and at last passed quietly away without apparent pain, dying from old age alone."

The Chameleon.

Among the tree lizards, or those which rarely crawl on the ground and never enter the water, the chameleon is the most noticeable. This singular reptile has long been famous for its power of changing its color, a property, however, which has been greatly exaggerated. Although all lizards are torpid, some of them are quite capable of great activity at certain seasons, but the chameleon is sluggish in the extreme, being the very slowest among reptiles.

When it moves along the branch on which it is clinging the reptile first raises one foot very slowly indeed, and will sometimes remain with its foot in air for a considerable time, as if it had gone to sleep in the interim. It then puts the foot slowly forward, and takes a good grasp of the branch. Having satisfied itself that it is firmly secured it leisurely unwinds its tail, which has been tightly twisted around the branch, shifts it a little forward, coils it around again, and then rests for a while. With the same slow precaution each foot is lifted forward and advanced, the movement being only a little faster than the hour-hand of a watch.

The chameleon's food consists of insects, mostly of flies, and, like many other reptiles, it is able to go for months without food, a fact which gives rise to the belief that the chameleon lived on the air. To judge by externals, there never was an animal less fitted than the chameleon for capturing anything as active as a fly, and yet we shall see that the lizard is well equipped for this purpose. The tongue is the instrument by which the fly is captured, being first deliberately aimed, like a billiard player aiming a stroke with his cue, and then darted out with singular velocity. This member is very muscular and is furnished at the tip with a kind of viscid secretion which causes the fly to adhere to it. Its mouth is well furnished with teeth, which are set firmly into its jaw, and enable it to bruise the insects after getting them into its mouth by means of the tongue.

The eyes have a most singular appearance, and are worked quite independently of each other, one rolling backward, while the other is directed forward or upward. There is not the least spark of expression in the eye of the chameleon, which looks about as intellectual as a green pea with a dot of ink upon it.

In speaking of the changes of color in the chameleon, Mr. Wood, the writer on natural history, says: "I kept a chameleon for a long time, and carefully watched its changes of color. Its primary hue was gray-black, but other colors were constantly passing over its body. Sometimes it would be striped like a zebra with light yellow, or covered with circular yellow spots. Sometimes it was all chestnut and black like a leopard, and sometimes it was brilliant green. Sometimes it would be grey, covered with black spots; and once, when it was sitting on a branch, it took the hue of the autumnal leaves so exactly that it could scarcely be distinguished from them."

Opium Slaves.

One of the most eminent of German medical men is reported as saying that there are not less, probably, than 10,000 persons in Germany who have become slaves to the habit of hypodermically injecting morphine. There are many who take as much as eighteen injections every day. Some have hardly a square inch of skin on their bodies which is not marked by scars produced by this practice. Slaves of this habit are even more hopelessly enchaind than those who take opium in other ways, and it is speedier destruction.

"I WANT twenty-four teeth filled with the best you've got in the house," is the way a cowboy gives his order to a restaurant waiter.

THE LITTLE FOLKS.

A Cherry-Tree Lesson.

A naughty little city boy was taken to a farm, to spend the summer holidays, away from heat and harm; When he could roll upon the grass, or chase the little chicks, Or tease the piglets in the pen by poking them with sticks. To pull the peacock's feathers out to him was lots of fun; The green stretched out their necks and hissed, and made him turn and run; He didn't dare to plague the dog, for fear that he would bite; But he was in all sorts of scrapes, from morning until night. One day he climbed a cherry-tree that in the garden grew. Because it was the very thing he'd been told not to do. The cherries were red and ripe, and tasted very sweet. That naughty boy he swallowed them as fast as he could eat. But when he'd eaten all he could, and scrambled down again, He sat upon the ground, and soon began to scream with pain; And when at last the doctor came he very grimly "Gave him a dose of castor-oil, and put him right to bed."

"It's all right," said his mamma, "to lie in bed all day. I hope 'twill be a lesson, Tom, and teach you to obey."

Tom promised solemnly no more that cherry tree to climb; And his mamma was very sure he meant it—at the time.

—Harper's Young People.

Johnny's Seven-Minute Sermon on Patience. Johnny was 7 years old, and his brother Willie was almost 5. Johnny took his stand on a stool, with the sewing machine in front of him for a pulpit, and with Willie sitting in a huge chair on the other side of the room for his congregation.

When all was ready, and Willie had got through fussing with the rag on his sore finger, Johnny began his sermon by saying:

"I will make a few brief remarks onto a short text, 'Be patient.' Firstly, be patient to everybody."

"Must I let all what's bigger'n me push me 'round jest's they's a mind to?"

"It isn't proper to talk in meeting," replied Johnny, "because it disturbs the services. But papa and mamma are bigger than you, and they don't push you around either. They only put you out where you don't belong to. And Margie—she's bigger than you; and she can't have a little tow-head between her and the bread board when she's mixing bread, and between her and the kettle when she's frying doughnuts, and between her and—"

"I ain't a tow-head," chimed in Willie. "My hair is just as black as—"

"As flax," suggested Johnny.

"Yes, sir-ee, jest as black as flax!" repeated Willie, in a tone of triumph.

"And then," continued Johnny, "there's me that's bigger than you. But I don't push you around, though."

"Preachers ought to tell the truf," exclaimed Willie, with a sharp look at the speaker.

"Well!—let's leave that point and pass on to the next. There are those big boys at school—a good deal bigger than you and me, too. One of them pushed me down in the mud one day and hurt my arm. I couldn't help crying, but I didn't get angry and call him names. I told him I was ashamed for him to do such a thing, because I wouldn't pitch into a littler boy than me. And then he came and helped me up, and took his handkerchief out of his pocket—just as clean and white—and wiped the mud all off from my sleeve and whispered to me that he was real sorry, and that he would never do such a mean thing again. That's what it means when papa read 'I other morning in the Gospel of St. Peter: 'Ye do well if ye take it patiently when ye are buffeted for nothing.'"

"Secondly: 'Be patient everywhere.' When I burn my fingers, mustn't I holler?" exclaimed Willie.

"If you don't stop your interruptions I will have to call you 'Guineau,' and that will be worse than to call the police. Of course, when you burn your finger you may holler some; but when mamma gets the rag ready to tie it up, you musn't jerk it away and scream so as to raise the neighbors. And when you play with Jimmie Dickson you musn't get pouty because he can run faster than you. And when you want to come into the house you musn't kick the door and scream—'Let me in, why don't you?' And when dinner isn't most ready you musn't—"

"Dear me," broke in Willie, "isn't this sermon almost out?"

"Thirdly: 'Be patient, always. When you get up late in the morning, and your breakfast is all cold because you didn't come when you were called. And when I can't find the button-book, because you hung it on the morning-glory vine. And—what more shall I say?"

"Say amen!" shouted Willie. Just then the door opened softly, and pussy came walking into the room. Willie sprang forward, took pussy up in his arms, and ran off to find his mamma, telling puss as he went, "I can be patient to everybody, and patient everywhere, and patient always—'cept when you scratch me, you naughty kitty, and when Johnny preaches a awful long sermon."

And so the meeting closed without the benediction.—Christian at Work.

The Lesson of the Briers.

"Charley! Charley!" called Ella to her younger brother; "don't go among those briers; come over here in the garden!"

"Ho! stay in the garden! I who wants to stay in the garden?" answered Master Charley, with great contempt. "I guess you think I'm a girl to want to play where's it's all smooth and everything. Ho!"

"That's not it, Charley, but you know we both have on our good clothes, and we must be ready to run quick when we hear the carriage drive up to the gate with Aunt May and Cousin Harry and Alice."

"I know that as well as you do," said Charley, pushing his way through the hedge as he spoke. "Girls aren't good for anything but to sit and sew. I mean to have some fun. I mean to—"

Ella felt like giving some angry answer, but she checked herself and went on with her sewing as she sat under the big tree, and wondering what had made Charley break off his sentence so suddenly.

"Ella, Ella!" cried a pitiful voice at

last, "come help me! I'm getting all torn. O—oh!"

Sure enough, Charley was getting all torn; some big thorns had caught his new trousers, and the harder he struggled the worse matters became.

"Hold still, dear," said Ella, "I can't help you while you kick so. There now you're free. Oh! Charley!"

Charley, clapping his hand to his trousers, knew well enough what Ella's "Oh!" meant. It meant a great big tear in his new clothes, two cousins coming to see the day, and a poor little boy sobbing in the nursery until the nurse would stop scolding and make him sit to go down and see the company. The very thought of all this misery made him cry.

"Oh! they'll be here in a minute! hoo-hoo!" he sobbed; "what shall I do?"

"Why, stand still, that's all," said Ella, hastily threading her needle with a long, black thread; "stand just so, dear, till I mend it."

"Mend it?" cried Master Charley, delighted. "O Ella! Will you?"

"Certainly I will," she answered very gently, at the same time beginning to draw the edges of the tear together; "you know girls are not good for anything but to sit and sew."

"O Ella! I didn't say that."

"I think you did, Charley."

"Not exactly that, I guess. It was awful mean, if I did. Oh, hurry! I hear the carriage."

"Do be quiet, you little wriggler!"

laughed his sister, hastily finishing the work as well as she could, so that Charley in a moment looked quite fine again.

"There! we'll get to the gate before they turn into the lane, after all."

Charley held Ella's hand more tightly than usual as they ran toward the gate together. Ella noticed it, and stopped to kiss him.

"I'm sorry I spoke so," he panted, kissing her again right heartily. "Does it show?"

"Not a bit; you wouldn't know anything had happened. Hurrah! here they are!"

"Hurrah! Howdy do, everybody," shouted Charley.—Joel Stacy, in St. Nicholas.

Don't.

Don't live on the shady side of the street; flowers need sun. Don't live in the midst of gloomy and dark surroundings; you cannot afford it; economize in some other way. Don't live in a room with bare walls. Chromos, heliotype, woodcuts and prints are all cheap, and for frames you may make them of straws or "spits." A cross made beautiful with twining tendrils of crimson woodbine may suggest that other cross, on which the hopes of men are placed. A picture of clasped hands and raised eyes will suggest the All-Father, who hears our supplications. Pictures of a sunset sky, a running brook and waving meadow-land, lead us away into the fresh, still country, even though the sound of drays and railway whistles and street-car tinkling bells be in our ears. If possible do not have a home without music; let it soften and mellow the home-life and hold young hearts together.

Don't read books and papers which suggest thoughts you would not utter. They stain the soul; they burn the heart. Can you thrust your hand into soot and bring it out white and clean? Can you sing your clothes and not have the smell of fire on your garments? Beware of books which are suggestive of evil, though they be clothed in the purple and gold of fine language. Don't watch for dishonesty and evil intention in those around. Hold every man honest until proved otherwise. Thus believing in others, you will draw out of them their best, for men, ordinarily, are their best to those who believe in them. Also keep your heart young and green by faith in your fellow-man. Don't forsake your church, even though its privileges are poor. Sermons will be helpful influences in your life. You may only carry away a single sentence of a sermon, thus: "Make the best of yourself." The sound, too, of music will help to drive away the evil spirit of your soul, and raise you into a higher atmosphere; nearer to truth and to God. Don't live your life alone, without forming friendships and love; your nature needs love, you were made for it, and other natures need you. You are robbing yourself, you are robbing others, if you live like a hermit. Therefore go out into God's world and live your life out for others.—Youth's Companion.

Tippling His Wife Out.

The women of the lower and middle classes of Wales are noted for their independence and the tenacity with which they hold to their own ways. Mr. Wirt Sykes, in his book on "Old South Wales," gives an illustration of the pertinacity with which a married woman strove to retain her reputation of being "the better man of the house."

A middle-aged and thrifty couple were of one mind as to their frugality and industry, but constantly at loggerheads as to who should be master. One evening, when the domestic storm had become too severe for the husband to endure, he shut himself up in the stable in order to escape his wife's tongue.

His intention was to remain there alone until two o'clock in the morning, when it would be time for him to start with his horse and cart for the market town. His wife, anticipating his purpose, hid herself under the straw in the cart.

When the man was well out on the road his wife popped up from the straw and began her "Candle lecture" at the exact point where it had been broken off by his retreat to the stable. For a moment he was dazed by the unwelcome apparition. But recovering himself he executed a flank movement which emancipated him from her strategy.

Pulling out the pin, he tipped the cart, and the voluble woman was shot out into the road with her unfinished lecture. Whipping up his horse, the triumphant but ungallant husband went rattling down the road, leaving his persistent wife to get home as best she could.

CHARACTER is human nature in its best form. It is moral order embodied in the individual. Men of character are not only the conscience of society, but in every well-governed state they are its best motive power; for it is moral qualities in the main which rule the world.—Samuel Smiles.

MICHIGAN AFFAIRS.

Michigan as a State.

The Chicago Inter Ocean voices the facts, as seen and recognized by the people of the metropolis of Illinois, when it says that "Michigan is not a State to be sneezed at as a land of big fires, malaria and mosquitoes. She last year, according to statistics, turned out 2,330,000 tons of iron ore, 15,000,000 bushels of oats, 4,000,000,000 feet of lumber, more copper and more charcoal than any other State in the Union, and as rich stores of minerals and timber as any, and the coming decade will see her take a long stride to the front. Chicago is as deeply interested in the prosperity of Michigan as in Illinois, and millions of her capital are invested in developing the wealth of her mines and forests."

Water Power in Au Sable.

One who has been upon the river cannot help observing the world of giant power displayed by this stream as it goes whirling along in its mad career. Let a man try to ford the stream near this place where the water is no more than four feet deep and appears to run very quietly. The stones will roll under his feet, the water will roar around his body, and if he does not proceed with the utmost caution one is almost certain of being swept away. If one hundredth of the amount of power along this river were used there would be mills and factories at every mile. A practical machinist tells us, what we have long believed, that current wheels could be profitably used here. There is never any ice in the river, and the only drawback to this is the running of logs, which lasts from some time in the winter until the end of June. Wheels simply moored in the stream and turned by the force of the current could be constructed at a trifling expense, and as the river is over 100 feet wide, while the current tends strongly to one side, it is not improbable that side booms could be so constructed as to keep running timber and logs from the wheel at all times. A surface velocity of twenty-five feet per second could be given to a current wheel almost anywhere, and there is practically no limit to the number that might be used without interfering. The attention of machine and mill men is in these days so much drawn toward steam as a motor that the giant forces running wild in our rivers do not get their share of attention, but we believe the time is not far distant when the Au Sable will be utilized for mechanical purposes.—Misc Mail.

Health in Michigan.

Reports to the State Board of Health, Lansing, by seventy-three observers of diseases in different parts of the State, show causes of sickness during the week ending Aug. 5, 1882, as follows:

Diseases in Order of Greatest Area of Prevalence.	Number.	Per Cent.
1 Intermittent fever.....	54	74
2 Diarrhea.....	53	73
4 Consumption, of lungs.....	42	58
5 Cholera morbus.....	40	55
6 Nephritis.....	40	55
7 Remittent fever.....	32	44
8 Typhoid fever.....	25	34
9 Cholera infantum.....	23	32
10 Dysentery.....	23	32
11 Constipation.....	16	22
12 Erysipelas.....	15	21
13 Influenza.....	15	21
14 Whooping-cough.....	12	16
15 Typho-malarial fever.....	11	15
16 Diphtheria.....	11	15
17 Pneumonia.....	11	15
18 Measles.....	10	14
19 Inflammation of bowels.....	9	12
20 Scarlet fever.....	8	11
21 Pueral fever.....	7	10
22 Typhoid fever (acute).....	5	7
23 Small-pox.....	3	4
24 Rubella.....	2	3
25 Mumps.....	2	3
26 Inflammation of brain.....	2	3
27 Cerebro-spinal meningitis.....	2	3

Beside those tabulated above, the following named diseases were reported each by one observer: Diabetes, Bright's disease, chorea and membranous croup. For the week ending Aug. 5, 1882, the reports indicate that cholera morbus, cholera infantum and diarrhea considerably increased; that pueral fever increased, and that tonsillitis and whooping-cough decreased in area of prevalence.

At the State Capitol, during the week ending Aug. 5, the prevailing winds were southeast; and, compared with the preceding week, the average temperature was slightly lower, but still high, and the extreme moisture of the air prevented ordinary loss of bodily heat by evaporation, the average relative and the average absolute humidity was considerably more, the average day ozone was much less.

It thus appears that the increased prevalence of cholera morbus, cholera infantum and diarrhea was coincident with a high temperature, a great increase in relative and in absolute humidity; also, with a low atmospheric pressure, and a considerable reduction in the day ozone.

Including reports by regular observers and by others, diphtheria was reported present during the week ending Aug. 5, and since, at 20 places, scarlet fever at 8 places, measles at 11 places and small-pox at 17 places, as follows: In Deerfield township, Lapeer county, July 30; at Lansing (one case, convalescent), July 31; in Crystal township, Montcalm county (four cases), Aug. 1; in Rapid River township, Kalamazoo county (four cases); in Orange, in Sebawa, in Danby, in Ionia county, and in Marcelona township, Antrim county (three cases), Aug. 3; at Mt. Morris, Genesee county (one case, convalescent), Aug. 4; at Detroit (three cases), Flint and Portland (one case), Aug. 5; in Walker township, Aug. 7; at Grand Rapids, Aug. 9; at Clio, Genesee county; in Ionia township, and near Carson City, Montcalm county, Aug. 10.

HENRY B. BAKER, Secretary.

Peculiarities of the Great Michigan Fire.

A correspondent of the Fireman's Journal, who has lately gone over the territory devastated by the great fire in the forests of Michigan last fall, says his observations are conclusive that the phenomena aside from the ordinary conditions of combustion were developed. In the first place the fire created at least two veritable storm centers which have the essential features of storms, and especially the spiral winds. The evidences are confirmatory of the belief

that this storm center, after it became fully developed, consisted of a heated body of air or gas in a state of combustion, which was constantly fed by the smoke and vapor driven to the center by the whirling winds and the gas generated in the combustion of the pines and other resinous woods. This body of air, or burning gas, if it may be so called, by its heat acquired an ascensive force, but by the rapid forward motion of the fire was sucked forward and devoured, actually preceding the fire proper. It is evident that body this was of intense heat, possibly as great as 400 degrees Fahrenheit, at which point oxygen and carbon unite. That such a body of luminous vapor existed, detached from the fire, is asserted by many who saw it from a distance, and by those who were under it, but who escaped from the fact that it passed above their places.

The idea is further sustained by the fact that the fire jumped whole patches of inflammable slashings, and alighted beyond, lifting and falling in its forward motion like a balloon touching the earth. Fences in the center of broad fields burst into a blaze as if by explosion, and others nearer the fire escaped. A man in fighting the fire took off his trousers, fearing they would catch fire and burn him up, and left them in a furrow in the middle of a field remote from any combustible material. When he went to get them he found them burned, and six quarter-dollars that were in the pocket melted together. A set of spoons were served the same way at another place.

Mrs. Lock and five children were burned to ashes, nothing but their bones remaining in the middle of the road, one hundred feet from any heavy timber. Green timber was dried and burned, and perhaps the most conclusive evidence was the apparently spontaneous appearance of fire in stumps and fences when no sparks were falling. These blazes appeared of white light and indicated a chemical union of carbon and oxygen. Another general feature is the fact that the fire appeared to move forward in parallel lines of varying width, and that in these lines everything was burned, and frequently to ashes. At the edge of the track a fence would be burned square off, just as though it had been cut or sawed perpendicularly; a house would be taken and the barn left; a wagon and a fanning mill were within five feet of each other, and the wagon was burned to ashes and the fanning mill not charred. It would be impossible, under ordinary circumstances, to burn a wagon without piling combustible material over it, but of this nothing but the iron was left.

Finally, the storm and fire disappeared simultaneously; that is to say, the fire was dependent upon the storm, or secondary to it—that it was prevented from lingering in the track or from burning sideways. In from two to three hours the fire was practically out where it had passed, indicating that the prime cause of the rapid combustion was in the storm which had passed, and which passing, perhaps, carried in its wake a condition of atmosphere opposed to combustion. This hypothesis explains pretty much all the phenomena except the balls of fire, which exactly correspond with what is known as "ball lightning," but which is a form of electricity wholly disputed by some, but recognized by Prof. Loomis.

The statements of Ballentine and Kabocke are confirmatory of this ball lightning idea, and contradictory of the idea that these lights arose from the intense heat, or they themselves could not have survived it. Other statements are to the effect that this ball of fire fell on the ground and exploded, running in all directions. This is explained by some who were not present, who say that it was but the resinous cones of the pine ignited, carried by the wind, falling, scattering the burning pitch about them; but it should be remembered that those people who saw this phenomenon are men who have lived amid forest fires all their lives and have seen all the ordinary phenomena, and are not of a class exactly visionary or imaginative. It is fairly to assume the possibility of electrical phenomena incidental to this fire storm, both from the fact that it was a great commotion in the elements and because it differed from a storm only in the facts of the absence of rain and presence of fire.—Scientific American.

Here and There.

The Steiner House barn, at Muskegon, was damaged \$500 worth by fire.

A CITIZENS' league is being formed in Muskegon to enforce the liquor laws.

At Whitehall two little boys, named Ashman, fell out of a second-story window. Both were insensible when picked up.

LIGHTNING killed five horses belonging to Wm. Haddrell, in an open field, on his farm in North Branch. The horses were in a group, though not all together—some being several rods apart.

STANTON Clipper: Jas. Guilmer was killed at Derby lake by the bursting of a gun. The breech of the gun struck him in the forehead and the screw struck him under the eye. His head was literally blown off.

A WELL, being bored for salt, at Muskegon, struck oil at a depth of 1,300 feet, and all the indications give color to the belief that there is such a quantity of oil in that vicinity as to warrant fuller developments.

MARSHALL Expositor: It is reported that a Methodist deacon living near St. Mary's lake purchased a binder of parties in this city, and insisted on having it set up Sunday in order that he might commence his harvest early Monday morning. The machine was accordingly put together, and quite a crowd assembled to see it work. After going around the field a number of times doing satisfactory work the deacon remarked: "It is all right, brothers, now let us go home and pray."

BUCHANAN Record's snake story: Mrs. A. Lindemeyer, living on the Shepardson farm near Clear lake, took her little 2-year old child to the garden, and while she was at work left the child on the ground. After a time her attention was called by the child laughing, and, upon examination into the cause of mirth, found that a large black snake had crawled up across the child's bare legs and was having a lively game of snap and grab that appeared to please all parties present except the mother, upon whose appearance the snake withdrew from the scene.